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PRESS RELEASE FROM THE PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
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JUN 09 1987

DEPT. OF ENVIRON.
CONSERVATION

Steve Cowper, Governor

Dennis D. Kelso, Commissioner

Joe Ferguson, Information Officer

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JUNE 3, 1987

SUBJECT: OMBUDSMAN REPORT ON MAPCO REFINERY

Department of Environmental Conservation officials today expressed deep concern about inaccuracies in a draft report by the State Ombudsman on the department's handling of problems at the MAPCO refinery in Fairbanks.

Commissioner Dennis D. Kelso said, "The Department is committed to resolving all environmental problems and issues at the MAPCO refinery. Our recent actions have demonstrated this commitment. However, we believe that the draft report from the Ombudsman contains factual errors, omissions and inaccurate representations. It reflects a serious misunderstanding of the legal mechanism of our compliance order with MAPCO. Moreover, the Attorney General's office has advised us that the report's conclusions relating to the compliance order are not correct."

"We believe we will find some of the criticisms and recommendations useful and some not," Kelso added. "We are committed to resolving the problems at the facility, but we have some serious disagreements with the report in its current draft form. We are preparing our response, and will address both the valid and the invalid criticisms."

IMAGED

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FILE COPY



Northern Alaska Environmental Center

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***** NEWS RELEASE *****

March 9, 1989
Release: Immediately

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HAZARDOUS AND TOXIC WASTES DUMPED, INJECTED INTO PIPELINE.
Environmentalists learned this week that The U.S.
Environmental Protection Agency has determined that
the MAPCO refinery near North pole, Alaska illegally dumped
toxic and hazardous waste into the Alaska pipeline as well as
the air, ground, and water of this suburban Fairbanks
community.

"While it is legal to re-inject things like dirty fuel and
oil into the pipeline, it most definitely is not to inject
things like aniline, sodium hydroxide, and hydrogen peroxide"
said Carl Reller, hazardous waste coordinator for the
Northern Alaska Environmental Center. "These wastes
ultimately end up at the Valdez terminal where the water
soluble substances go directly into Valdez harbor, while the
oil soluble wastes could damage refinery techniques and
equipment."

The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation has found
more than a quarter of a million gallons of fuel in the
ground under MAPCO thus far.

* MORE *

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TEL NO: 918-599-3652

MAR-09-89 17:01 ID: MAPCO INC

Only this week did environmentalists learn that on January 6 EPA quietly ordered MAPCO to begin an extensive and costly clean-up that will take nearly three years and require monitoring the ground water for decades. Over 10,000 people live within a three mile radius of the contaminated area, which is on land leased from the state by MAPCO.

Environmentalists called on the state Department of Environmental Conservation and EPA to establish an advisory group as provided for under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act. "The drinking water wells for North Pole are less than a half mile from the contaminated zone and in the path of the toxic plume, yet the public has had no opportunity to become involved," Reller said. "MAPCO claimed that the public can't even be told the location of their monitoring wells. We feel the people of North Pole have the right to be involved in this critical process."

"The situation at MAPCO is extremely disturbing in light of other serious compliance problems stemming from North Slope oil development," said Rex Blaser, Executive Director of the Northern Alaska Environmental Center, who cited hazardous waste problems at Tesoro's Kenai refinery and a recently leaked EPA report which documented serious environmental damage resulting from improper and careless management of chemical and oil wastes on Alaska's North Slope. "If this

sort of thing is going on right next to our major population centers and indeed within a few miles of regulatory agency offices, how can we trust the oil industry to operate in compliance with environmental laws in the distant and more sensitive lands of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge?"

* END *